

Perspective on Education and Crimes of Umdurman Women Prison in Mates

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Abstract

Crime is a serious problem that affects the life of individuals and the victims. Women who are gentle, caring and *nurturing people* are increasingly involved in criminal activities. The aim of this study is to examine the relationship between the sampled women offenders of Umdurman Women Prison (Dar Eltaeebat) educational attainment and their crimes.

The data for the study were collected from interview schedules administered to a random sample of women prisoners in Umdurman women prison as primary sources. The secondary sources were the prison's authority records in addition to the books and other sources. The data were analysed using different statistical techniques. The study revealed that Khartoum women offenders committed various non-violent crimes with different rates. It also showed that 73% of them received an education from the least "Khalwa" rudimentary and primary level to higher level. The study observed that the women educational status affect their tendency to commit crimes, and that crime has no profession. The study showed that most of the women in prison were first time offenders.

It was further observed that women of certain educational and social background commit financial and prostitution crimes in Khartoum. The study showed that the changing role of women in the Sudanese society has its attendant impact on women crimes. It was further observed that 53% of the women commit their crime alone and that 83% of the women support dependents ranging from one to eight whom they cater for.

Keywords: women, education, crime

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Introduction

Crime is a major social problem that affects the quality of life of individuals, victims and societies at large. It has been locally on earth with the existence of man. Globalization and development have changed this fact to be transnational phenomena that has many monetary cost, and severe consequences for the sustained development of societies (Sharpe, 2000). Women involvement in criminal activities is an abomination in conservative societies like Sudan. Their criminality has not been thought of to constitute a problem in the Sudanese criminal arena. This is because women were expected to be nurturing, people. However during the last two decades female offences have been on the rise globally, Khartoum women offenders are not an exception, a situation that necessitated the creation of women prison in Umdurman (Dar Eltaeebat) in 1992 to confine them. While there has been a lot of theoretical work on the literature of the association between educational attainment and crime, the relationship between these two variables at the metropolitan level has not been extensively researched. Metropolitan cities like Khartoum are growing faster and larger. The goal of this paper is to uncover the empirical relationship between the sampled women offenders of Umdurman women prison educational attainment and their crimes.

1.2 Research Problem

Women are increasingly involved in criminal activities, commit different types of crimes. Although the study of crime has attained massive investigation by social scientists and geographers in advanced countries, there is still little concern among the geographers of the developing world about the geography of women crime and its detriments especially in the Sudan. Geography can contribute much to a better understanding of crime prevention or at least set regulation to minimize its occurrence.

The primary aim of this paper is to shed light on the educational background of the incarcerated Khartoum women criminals and their crimes, to help understand the relation between education and crime from a geographic point of view. Four categories of the known educational system namely Islamic education (Khalwa) , primary, secondary, and higher level of education system were investigated in addition to the income and the occupation of the sampled offenders.

1.3 Aims and Objectives

The overall goal of this paper is to examine the empirical relationship between the sampled women offenders of Umdurman women prison educational attainment and their crimes. Under this aim the following specific objectives will be pursued:

1. To analyze the impact of the offenders educational background on their crimes.
2. To examine the level of the income and occupation of the sampled women on their criminal activities.

1.4 Research Assumptions

The question designed to guide the study is as stated below:

Education does not affect the crimes committed by the inmates of Umdurman Women Prison.

1.5 Data collection and methodology

The data for this study were collected from primary and secondary sources. The primary sources were interview schedules administered to a random sample of women prison inmates, while the secondary sources were the Prison reports and records, books journals and internet. The collected data were analyzed using different statistical techniques. The qualitative analysis of the compiled data included statistical Chi-square technique to ascertain the factors that influence women crimes in the study area.

1.6 Literature Review

There are many schools of thought that strive to examine women involvement in criminal activities. In line with Adler (1975), Schwartz and Steffensmeier (2008) suggested women's increased incarceration rates could be linked to the battle of gender equality or female emancipation, they suggest that, it is not the issue of "equality", but it is the inequality issue that leads women to offend. They supported their argument by connecting women's economic inequality and poverty to the economic-based crimes with which women are mostly charged, such as fraud, shoplifting, and theft. Likewise, Hagan, Simpson, and Gillis (1987) discussed how family structure can play in female crime rates, arguing the less power women have in the household, the less likely to

commit crime. Carroll (2001) suggested that the rise of Mafia women in Italy is connected to women's increased participation in universities and the labor market, as women are gaining equality in all institutions from which they were previously excluded. That is mostly the case everywhere nowadays in urban environment. However, different analyses were thought to explain crime phenomena, therefore specific types of crimes in different jurisdictions may call for different explanation.

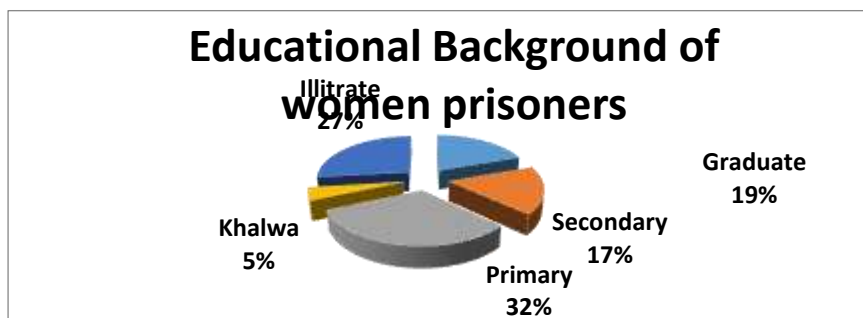
The relationship between education and crime has been considered as a complicated one, taking into account the many other factors at play, which are beyond the scope of this study. Most of the writers on this issue suggest a causal link between crime and education. Fella (2014) points to the magnitude of increased spending on education upon crime, while Marlow (2001) wrote on the co-relational fallacy between education and crime prevention. Acquiring education may raise opportunity cost of crime, it can also increase the earnings from certain crimes like white-collar and fraud. On the other hand, it might reduce the propensity of others to commit crimes. This is because crime is a rational decision taken by an individual.

2. Result and Discussion

2.1 The Educational Background of the women inmates

The educational background of the women inmates showed that 73% of them received education from the least "Khalwa" rudimentary and primary level to higher level. The illiterate inmates were 27% only. Those who attended primary schools had the highest percentage of 32% while the graduates were 19%. The inmates who claimed to have attained secondary schools education level were 17%. The least educated women of "Khalwa" or Islamic traditional education represented 5% of the women inmates interviewed for this study.

Fig 1: Educational Background of the Women Inmates



Source: Field Work 2016

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It is obvious that more educated women were in prison as education provides more opportunity and exposure to women and by extension opportunity to commit crimes as well. Committing a crime is a rational decision open to those who have the opportunity to take such a decision. Educated women do have more of such opportunity. Table 1 shows the statistical analysis of the education and women crimes.

Table: 1The statistical analysis of the women educational

Education Status	Observed	Expected	(O-E)	(O-E) ²	(O-E) ² /E
Graduate	98	100.04	-2.04	4.1616	0.041599
Secondary	87	100.04	-13.04	170.0416	1.699736
Primary	159	100.04	58.96	3476.282	34.74892
Khalwa	23	100.04	-77.04	5935.162	59.32788
Illiterate	135	100.04	34.96	1222.202	12.21713
	502				108.0353
Calculated χ^2		108.035			
Degrees of freedom	df	4			
Tabulated χ^2	α 0.05	9.49			

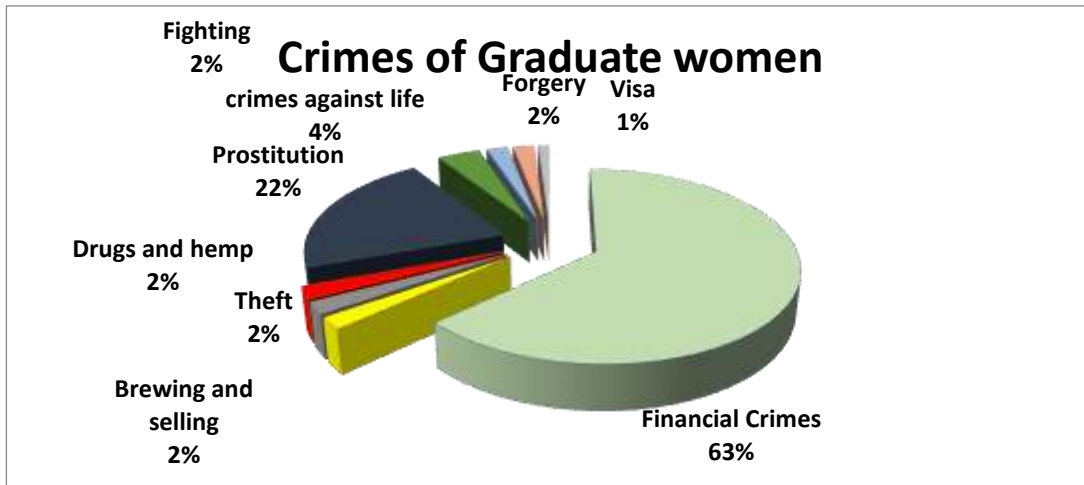
The analysis of the women educational status and committing of crime results in rejection of the hypothesis that the women educational status does not affect their tendency to commit crimes. This confirms the finding that crime is a rational choice and education indeed opens more choices for the women.

2.1.1 Crimes of the Graduate Women

The graduate women prisoners were involved in two major crimes. 63% of them are imprisoned for Financial crimes and issuance of dud cheques. 22% of the women graduate prisoners were involved in prostitution and related crimes. The other crimes committed by graduates were brewing of alcohol, forgery, theft, fighting ,drugs and hemp dealings. Each of these crimes involved 2% of the graduate women prisoners respectively. Financial crimes and prostitution engaged the graduate women because these crimes are considered “urban” crimes. The graduate women criminals have more opportunity to commit these types of crimes for their knowledge of the Khartoum environment, exposure and availability of clients

for prostitution. Women involvement in business and trading expose many to temptations to defraud or make quick money. The graduate women are socially mobile middle class who seek to assert their status in GreaterKhartoum.

Figure2 Crimes of the graduate women

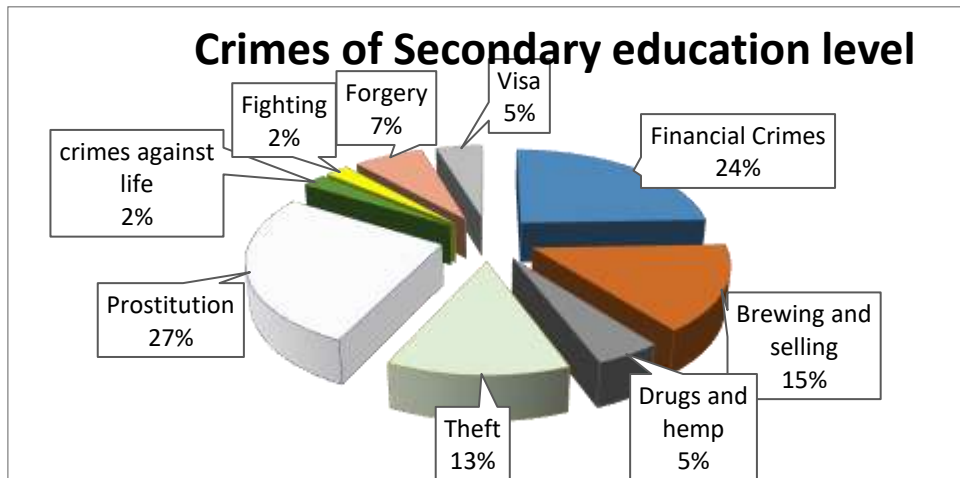


Source: Field Work 2016

2.1.2 Crimes of women with secondary education level

Prostitution was committed by 26% of women prisoners with secondary level of education. Financial crimes, theft and brewing of alcoholic drinks were committed by 24%, 15% and 13% of the secondary educated women prison inmates respectively. Forgery, visa violations and drugs and hemp related crimes were committed by 7% for the earlier and 5% each for the two latter crimes by the secondary educated women prison inmates. Women with secondary education tend to be exposed to working and business life at relatively younger age with less maturity and experience to overcome obstacles. Thus they revert to crimes like prostitution that needs little or no capital to practice.

Figure 3. Crimes of the Secondary level educated women

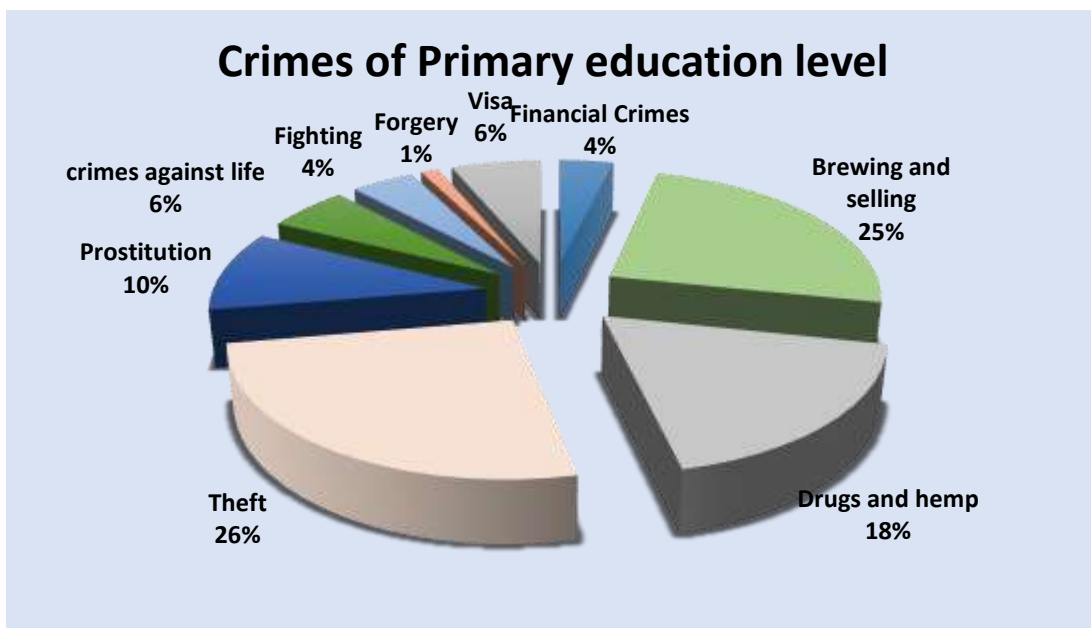


Source: Field Work 2016

2.1.3 Crimes of Women with Primary Education level

Women with primary education are less equipped to be involved in crimes that require more sophistication like issuing of dud cheques for this reason only 4% of the primary level educated inmates are involved in Financial crimes. Brewing of alcohol, theft, drugs and hems related crimes engaged 26% , 25% and 18% of primary education level women prisoners

Figure 4: Crimes of women of with primary education level



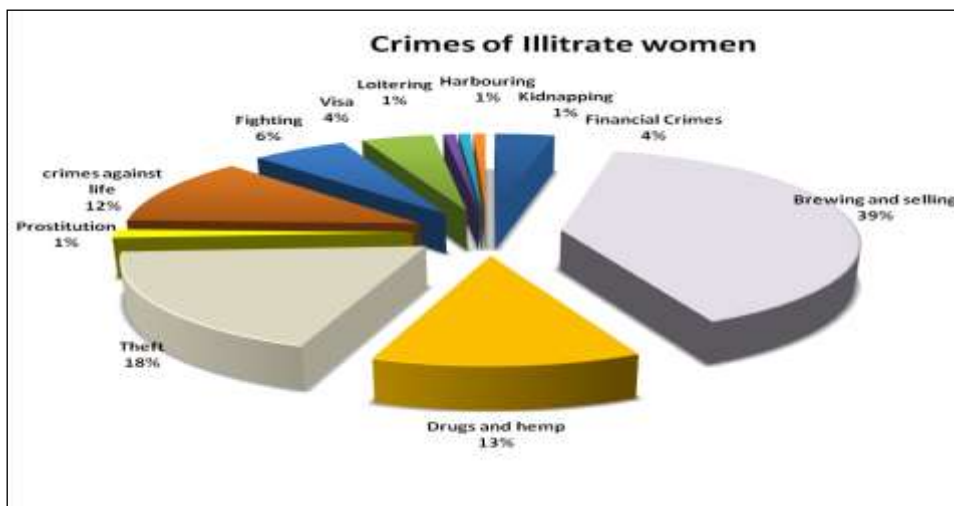
Source: Field Work 2016

respectively. Prostitution caused the imprisonment of 10% of primary level educated women inmates. This require no skills or trade to practice. Crimes against life accounted for the imprisonment of 6% of the primary education level inmates while visa violation recorded 6%

2.1.4 Crimes of the illiterate women

Illiterate women inmates were involved in crimes that require no sophistication like brewing of alcohol which engaged 39% of this category of women offenders. Theft, drugs and hemp crimes accounted for 18% and 13% of the illiterate women prisoners respectively. Crimes against life and related crimes of abortion caused the imprisonment of 12% of the illiterate women inmates.

Figure 5 Crimes of illiterate women inmates



Source: Field Work 2016

The economic hardship and the fact that most these crimes do not require special skills to practice might explain the involvement of the illiterates in them. Financial crimes and issuance of cheques was practiced by 4% of the illiterate women prisoners.

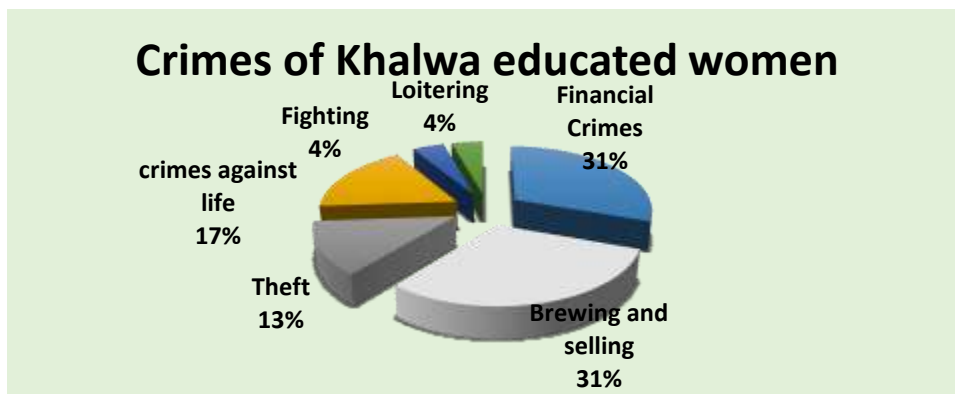
2.1.5 Crimes of the Islamic “Khalwa” educated women

The “Khalwa” education system is a sort of traditional local effort to educate Muslims. It imbibes Islamic cultural and ethical values that help produce a good morally upright Muslim. The Khalwa educated women make 5% of the prison inmates. It appears this system have

some positive effect on the people as the women with Khalwa type of education were the least in numbers in the prison compared to the products of other educational systems. This category of women prisoners are mostly rural immigrants to Khartoum. They are displaced for famine or war. They are also involved in menial jobs like dishwashing and other house help works for the well to do in Khartoum. Their Islamic khalwa education makes most of them more reserved and conservative guarding against the “city” values and fearing the violation of the laws of the “city” life they are facing in Khartoum.

A third of the khalwa educated women committed each of brewing of alcoholic drinks and financial crimes. It is most likely that those brewing alcohol are coming from societies that tolerate brewing and consumption of alcohol even if they are Muslims. Some commit brewing of alcoholic drinks to make living or for gain as business though it ended them in the prison. 17% and 13% of the khalwa educated women committed crimes against life and theft respectively. It is observed that the Khalwa educated women did not commit prostitution and dealing in drugs crimes.

Figure 6: Crimes of "Khalwa " Educated Women



Source: Field Work 2016

2.2 Occupation of the women inmates

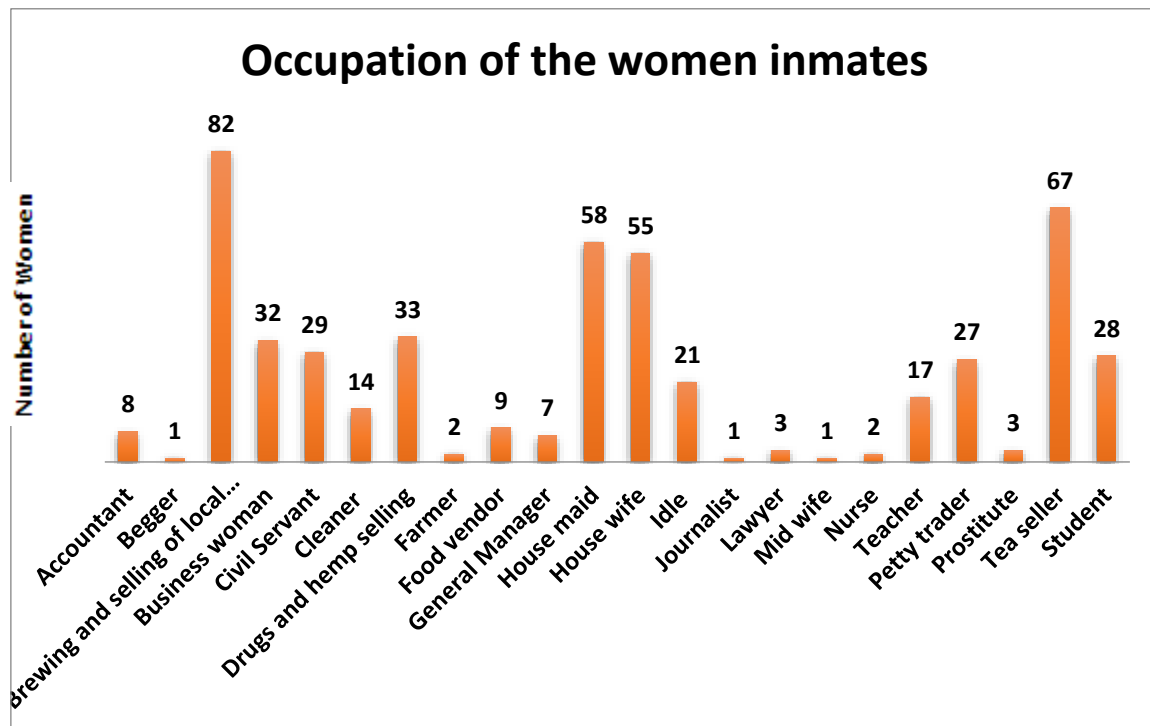
The occupations of the women inmates revealed that crime has no specific profession. A significant number of the women in prison are accomplished professionals. There were eight women accountants, three lawyers, seven rose to be General Managers in their respective professions. There were thirty two business women, twenty nine civil servants.

The highest number of women prisoners were those whose occupation was brewing and selling of alcoholic drinks. These are women who practice the brewing despite the prohibition of the act by law. As mentioned earlier, these women have little or no chances of practicing other things as they are mostly displaced, illiterate with no skills or training to practice any trade.

Tea selling along the streets and junctions is the occupation of sixty-seven women. The tea sellers are mostly internally displaced women like their sisters who brew alcoholic drinks are ill-prepared to practice any trade or be engaged in any gainful employment. Women petty traders numbered twenty-seven. Like the tea sellers, they sell wares and food items in the markets, bus stations and busy streets. They are most of the time harassed by the authorities who confiscate their goods and wares. This pushed some of them to collect loans or take goods on credit but fail to pay, thus they end in prison as defaulters.

The third largest group of women prisoners was house maids. These are also mostly rural immigrants from war zones or areas affected by draught or insecurity. The housewives were fifty-five women. A significant number of women said they were taking pushing and selling of Indian hemp and hard drugs as their occupation. This is an indication of the change in women activities in an urban settlement. Sudanese women and indeed women generally in conservative Muslim societies hardly come near drugs. The changing paradigms in urban lives can best be seen in this group of women who took drugs and related crimes as their occupation. However, it is pertinent to mention that these women are more of drugs and Indian hemp (bongo) pushers than consumers.

Figure 7: Occupation of the women inmates



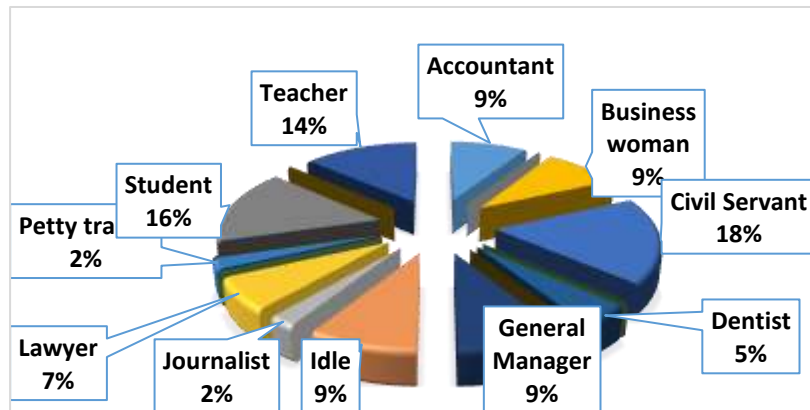
Source: Field work 2016

Twenty eight women inmates were students of different secondary schools and universities. These mostly engaged in crimes relating to prostitution and theft.

2.2.1 Occupation of the Graduate Women Inmates

The occupations of this group of women inmates revealed that crime has no specific profession. The graduate women inmates were all professionals except for the students who were 16% of them. The civil servants were 16% while the teachers were 14% the accountants, businesswomen, general managers and idle unemployed women made 9% each in the group of the graduate women. Lawyers, Dentists and Journalists were 7%, 5% and 2% respectively. It observed that no one in this group confessed to take prostitution, dealing in drug related crimes and brewing of alcoholic drinks as profession despite the involvement of some of the in these crimes.

Figure :8 Occupation of the Graduate Women



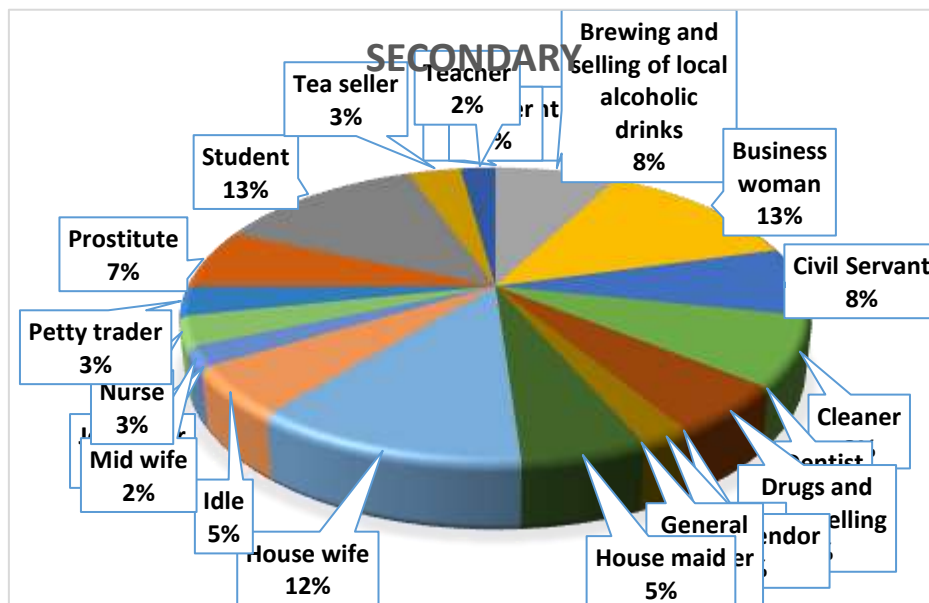
Source : field Work 2016

2.2.2 Occupation of the Secondary Educated Women Inmates

The occupations of the sampled women criminals of this group is shown in Fig below. It shows that businesswomen and students make 13% each and house wives were 12% of the inmates of this group. A main phenomenon in this group is having brewing of alcohol, prostitution and dealing in drugs and hemp as the occupation of 8%, 7% and 5% respectively as reported.

The educational level of the women in this group makes few professionals among them thus explaining the 3% and 2% Midwives and Nurses respectively.

Figure :9 Occupation of Secondary Educated Women

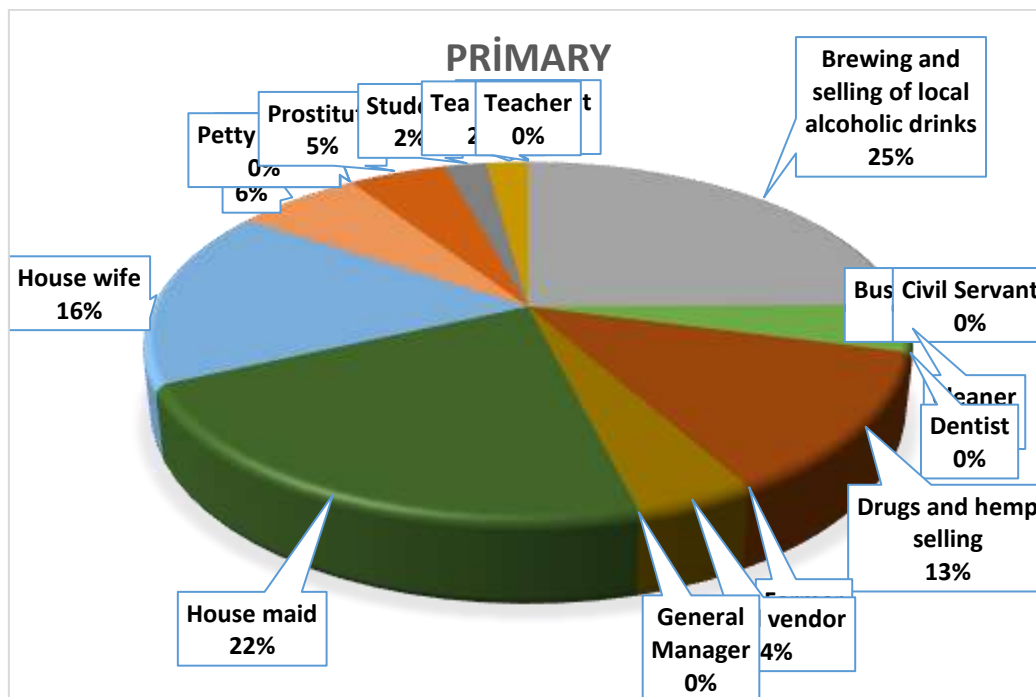


Source: Field Work 2016

2.2.3 The Occupation of the Primary Educated Women inmates

The occupations of the women inmates with primary education do not require high training, sophistication or skills to help them avoid breaking the law. Brewing and selling of local alcoholic drinks is the occupation of 25% of the women in this group followed by housemaid that accounts for 22% of this group. Housewife is the occupation of 16% of the primary educated women inmates. Prostitution and dealing in drugs are the occupation of 5% and 13% of the women inmates in this group.

Figure :10 Occupation of Primary Educated Women

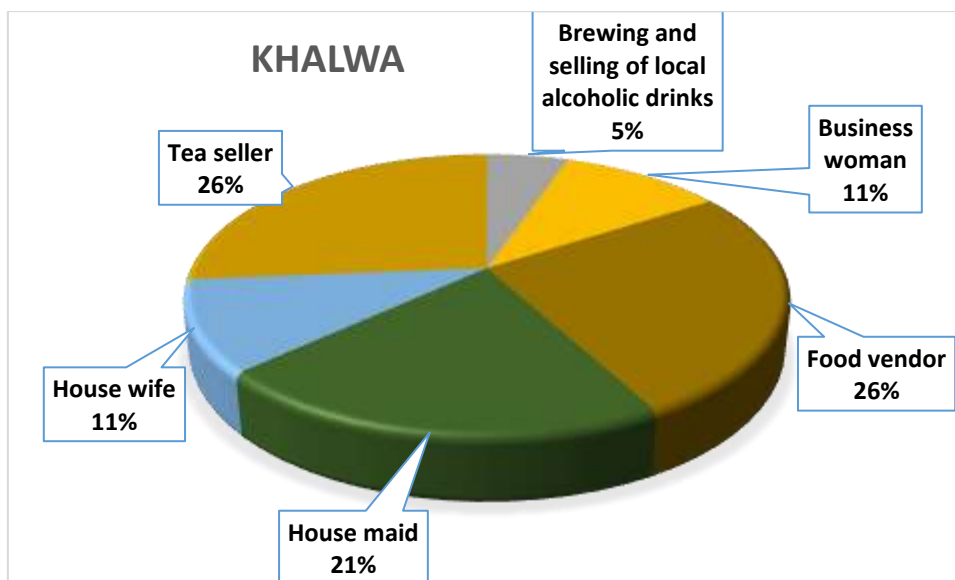


Source: Field Work 2016

2.2.4 The Occupation of the Khalwa educated women inmates

Half of the women inmates in this group reported their occupations as Food vendors and tea sellers that accounted to be 26% each. A housemaid is the occupation of 21%. Each of housewife and business women are reported to be the occupation of 11% respectively. Ironically this group reported 5% of the sampled inmates who practice brewing and selling of local alcoholic drinks as their occupation.

Figure 11: Occupation of Khalwa Educated Women

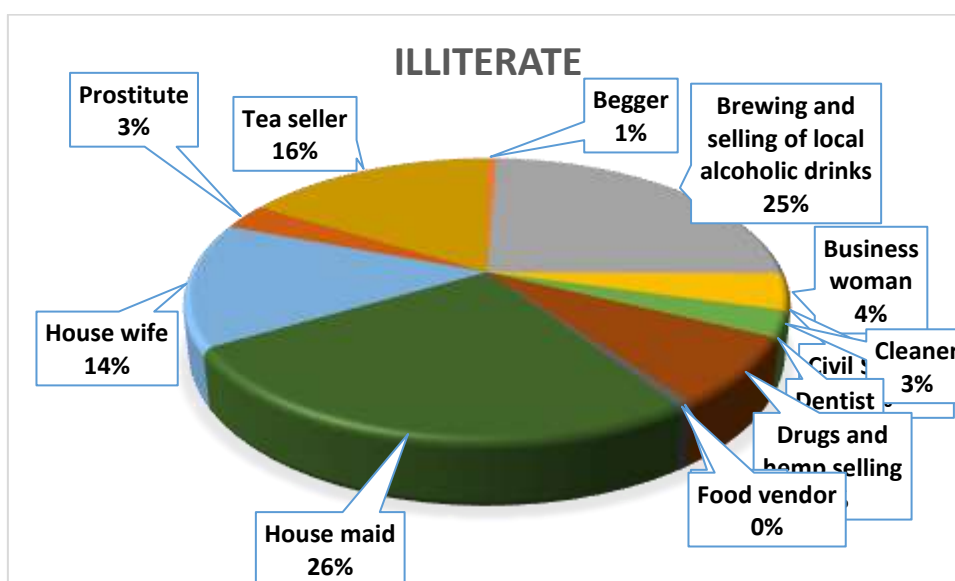


Source: Field Work 2016

2.2.5 Occupation of the Illiterate women inmates

Women in this group with no skills and mostly displaced by war and famine are occupied by brewing of local alcoholic drinks 25%, house maids 26%, tea selling 16%, housewives 14% as the major occupations. Drugs and prostitution are occupation of 8% and 3% respectively.

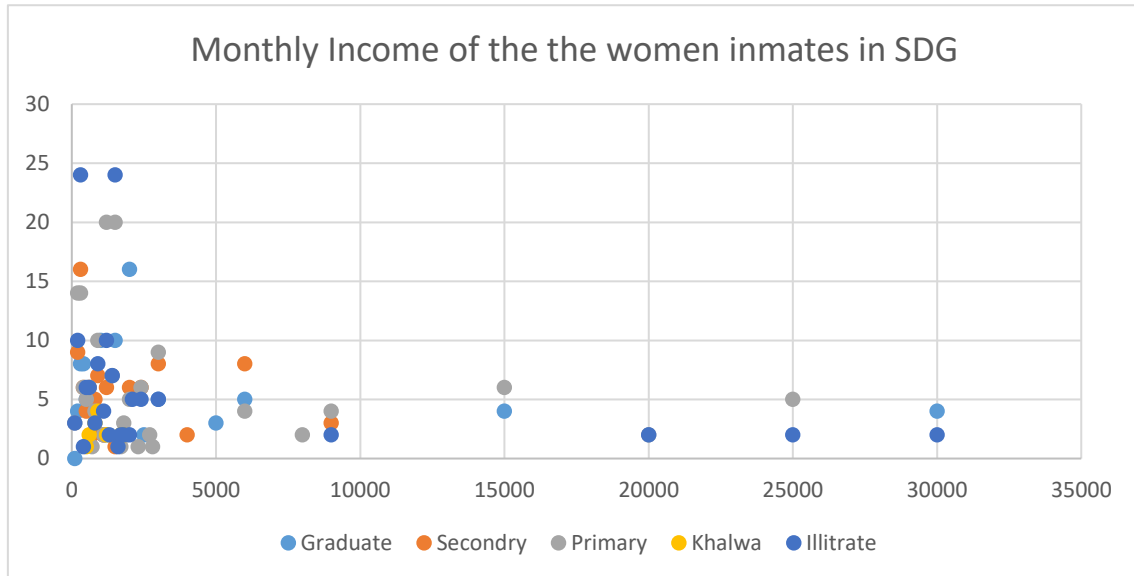
Figure :12 Occupation of the Illiterate Women



Source: Field Work 2016

2.3 Income of the Women inmates

The women inmates were asked about the monthly income. The response was plotted on a scatter diagram in the Fig 13 below.

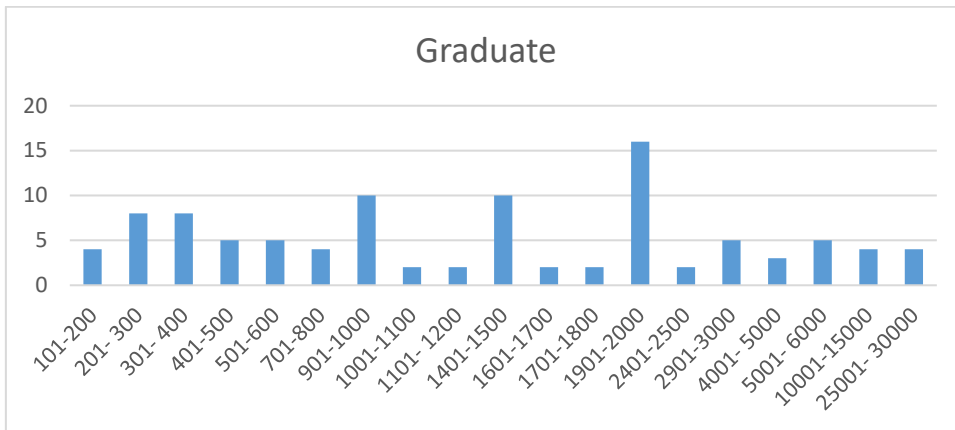


It is observed that the monthly income of the inmates in Sudanese Pounds (SDG) clustered below SDG 5000 which is equivalent to \$500 at the prevailing exchange rate at the time of the study. Below is the monthly income of the inmates according to the educational background.

2.3.1 The monthly income of the Graduate women inmates

The Graduate women have attained high income levels compared to the other women being professionals. The number of women criminals in this group appear be increasing with their income. Their number peaks at the monthly income of SDG 2100 which was reported by 16 women. The number of sampled women earning more than SDG 2100 decrease to reach income peak of SDG 30,000. This group falls within the real middle income class. Their education prepared them for this level of income which is generally above the poverty line.

Figure :14 Income of the Graduate Women

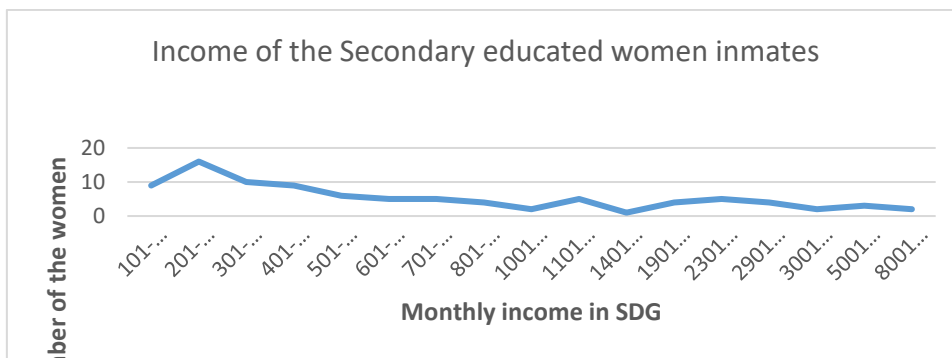


Source: Field Work 2016

2.3.2 Income of the Secondary educated women inmates

The Figure 15 below shows the income of the Secondary educated women inmates. About 50% of them earn less than SDG 900 which is equivalent to \$90 per month. This puts them below the poverty line of \$100 per month or \$1 per day. The graph suggests the reduction of the number of criminal inmates with the increase of their monthly income.

Figure :15 Monthly Income of the secondary Educated Women

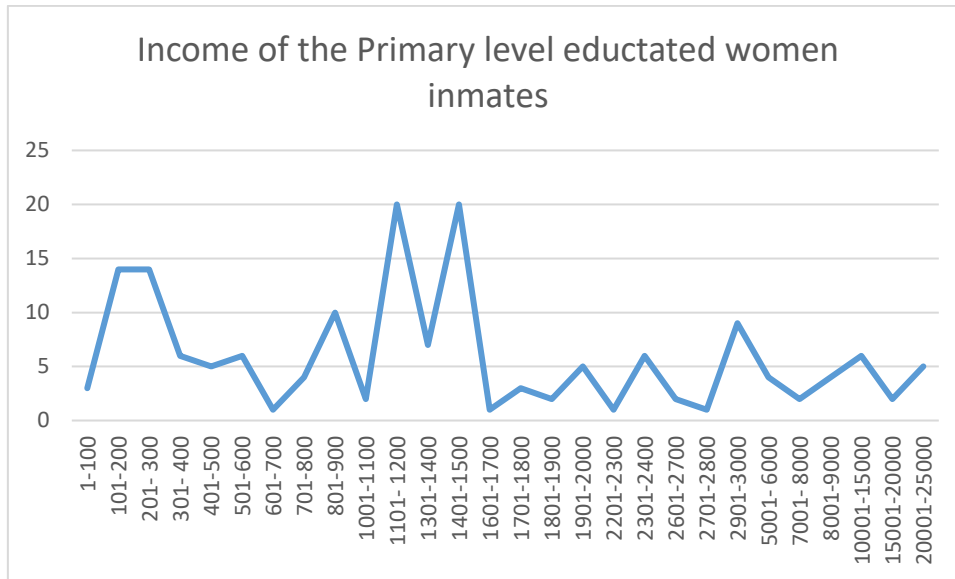


Source: Field Work 2016

2.3.3 Income of the Primary level Educated Women Inmates

Figure 16 Income of the Primary educated Women

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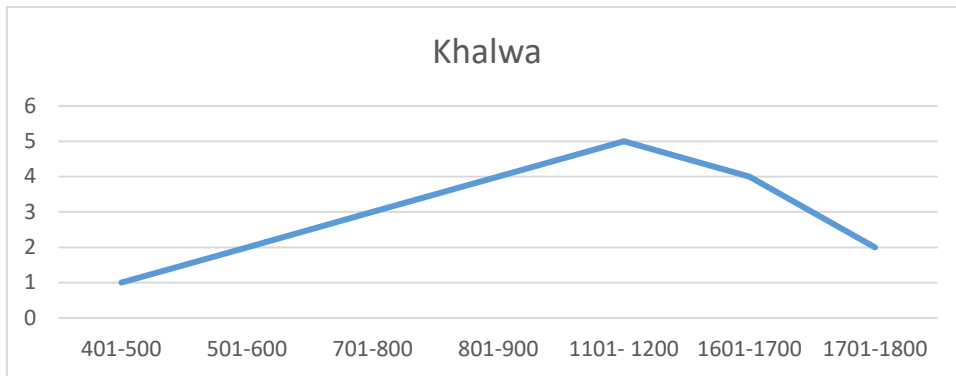


The women with primary education level income vary significantly. Those whose income fall between SDG 100 and 1100 are 60 women or 38% of this group. The second subgroup were 47 women or 29.6% whose income is between SDG 1100 and SDG 1700. The last segment of income graph shows a normal graph rising from an income of SDG1700 to peak at SDG3000 and raising in value of the income to SDG 25,000 but the numbers of women is decreasing.

The fluctuation in the income of this group is due to their occupations and crime they commit. In this group the major occupations are brewing of alcohol, selling of drugs and being house maid, while the major crimes committed were theft, brewing of alcohol dealing in drugs and prostitution. All these occupation and crimes fetch more money for women with low education back ground.

2.3.4 Income of the Khalwa level Educated Women Inmates

Figure : 17 Income of the khalwa Educated Women

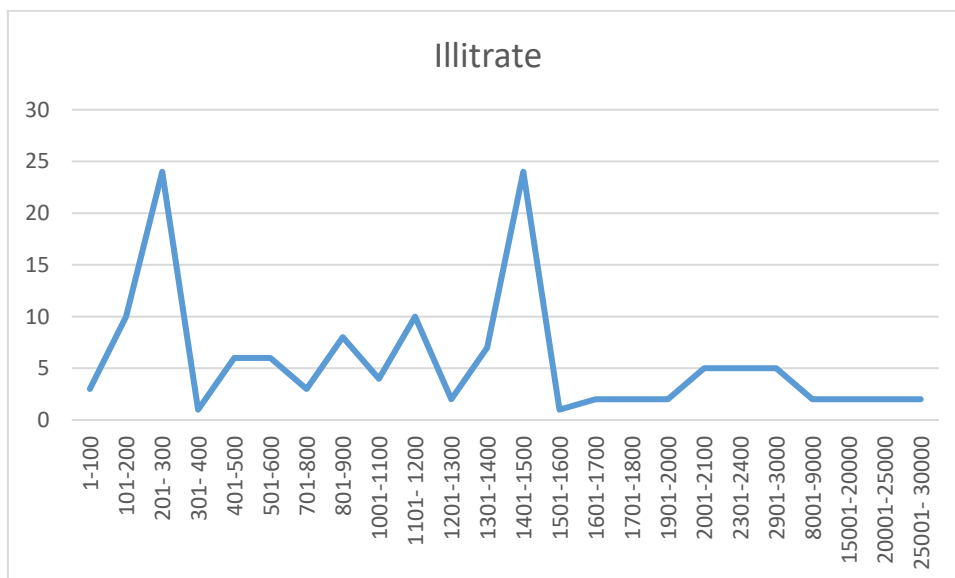


Source: Field Work 2016

The income of the Khalwa educated women appears to rising with the number if incarcerated to reach a peak of SDG1200 and a number of 5 women. The graph descends with increase of the income. This suggests a normal relation between the income and number of incarcerated Khalwa educated women.

2.3.5 Income of the Illiterate Women Inmates

Figure 18: Income of the illiterate Women



Source: Field Work 2016

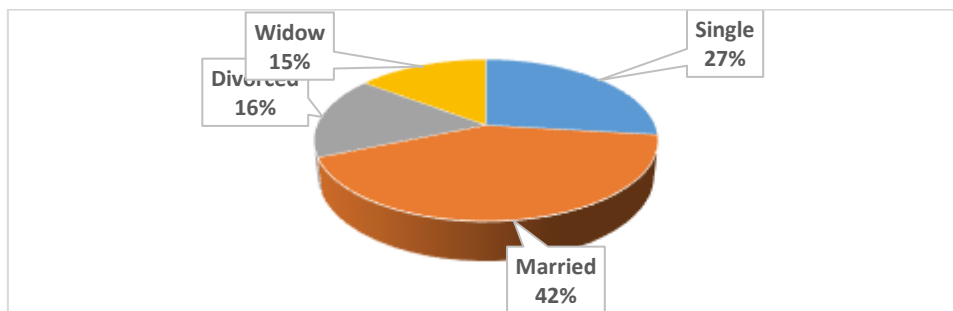
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The income of the Illiterate women inmates shows clearly two peaks in the number of women plotted against their income. The income levels of SDG 300 and SDG 1500 have 25 women each representing 18.5% each another 25 women in this group or 18.5% income above SDG 1600.

2.4 The marital status of the women

The marital status of the incarcerated women showed that 42% were married, 27% singles, 16% divorced and 15% were widows. The high percentage of married women may suggest the responsibilities on them with meager resources that can contribute to their involvement in crime. The marital status versus the educational back ground of the sampled women is shown below.

Figure 19: Marital Status of the Sampled Women



Source: Field Work 2016

2.4.1 Marital Status of the each education level of the Women

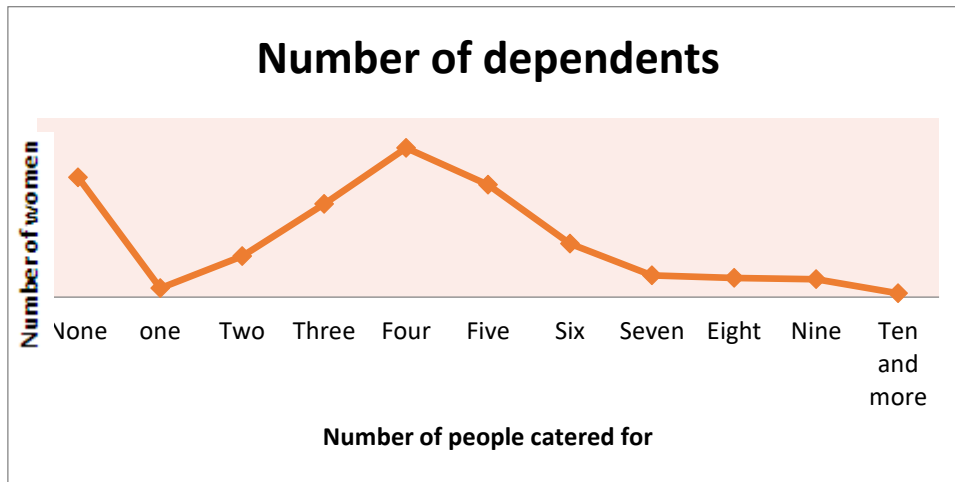
The graduate women marital status showed 43% married, 38% single, 16% divorced and 3% widows. The Secondary educated women inmates marital status showed 46% married, 37% single, 11% divorced and 6% widows. The marital status of the primary educated women revealed that 36% married, 28% single, 16% divorced and 18% widows while Khalwa educated women were 56% married, 22% divorced and 22% widowed. There were no single unmarried women among this group.

2.5 Number of dependents the inmates cater for

The Sudanese society is built on the family as a building unit. It operates the extended family system. The system provides social security to the individuals. This system was developed over centuries of existences. The society attaches values and concepts an individual hardly

breaks, 81% of the women inmates cater for one or more persons, and 19% reported that they have none to cater for. This group must be young, unemployed and may be students. Some of them lost their guardians, parents or family member in the wars and became displaced and living in the shanty towns of Khartoum.

Figure 20: Number of dependents the inmates cater for



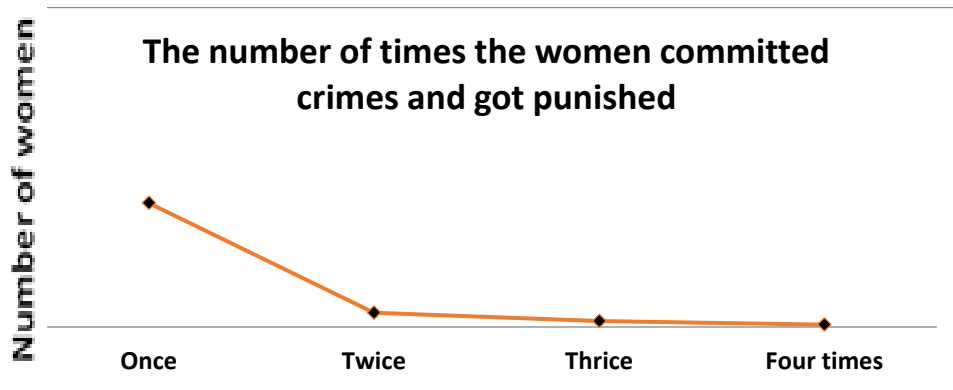
Source: Field Work 2016

The numbers of people catered for by the women vary from one to ten and over. The distribution graphs show a normal distribution that peaks at four and descends gradually to three. The number of people a woman caters for put a burden on her especially if she is poor or living under demanding and challenging living conditions as obtained in the cities. The inability to meet the demands of the dependents may exert pressures on the women who may revert to crime to meet those demands.

2.6 The number of times the women committed crimes and got punished

It is obvious from plotting the graph of the women inmates against the number of times they committed crimes a negative correlation is established. This goes to proof that women actually tend less to commit crimes and become hardened criminals.

Figure 21: The number of times the women committed crimes and got punished.



Source: Field Work 2016

Findings

This study proves that women education has effect on the crimes they commit.

It also found that educated women commit more crimes than illiterate ones in Khartoum, as education opens many opportunities for them. While 63% of the graduate women are imprisoned for financial crimes and issuance of dud cheques, 22% of them were involved in prostitution and related crimes. The secondary educated women case is similar to that of the graduate. the islamic edudated women “khalwa” are least criminal group in the prison. It appears this system have some positive effect. This category of women prisoners are mostly rural immigrants to Khartoum, who are displaced by famine or war. They are also involved in menial jobs like dishwashing and other house help works for the well to do in Khartoum. Their Islamic khalwa education makes most of them more reserved and conservative guarding against the “city” values. The occupations of the women inmates revealed that crime has no specific profession, a significant number of the women in prison are accomplished professionals. The income characteristic element showed an increase in criminality with poverty and thus a decline with the increase in income.

Recommendations

- a. We recommend that there should be more studies on this and other related issues of geography of crime. Women economic empowerment to encourage and mobilize

women to strive at economic self-reliance by tapping the available resources to face the increasing challenges of urban life.

- b. The government should address the problem of imbalanced growth of major cities at expenses of the peripheries and rural area to minimize the rural urban drift.
- c. The study showed the islamic edudated women “khalwa” are least criminal group in the prison. Therefor emphasizing moral and values ethics are of utmost importance for humanity in general.

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